of garlic due to shortfall in its production. As regards the trend in the prices of other essential commodities during the past one year, the prices of some essential commodities have gone up and some have declined.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to meet the shortage the Government has decided to import some quantity of garlic. Government have been taking a number of steps to keep the prices of essential commodities in check and to improve their availability. The major thrust of Government policy has been to increase the production of various essential commodities, particularly those which are in short supply. Some essential commodities like edible oils and kerosene oil are imported in order to augment their domestic availability. Exports of several essential commodities which are in short supply in the country are either banned or regulated. The Public Distribution System through which essential commodities like foodgrains, sugar and edible oils are distributed to the common people at reasonable prices. is being strengthened and expanded. Allocation of foodgrains to Public Distribution Systm (PDS) has been kept at a high level this year. Allocation of imported edible oils to PDS was increased substantially during the last few months. Allocation of levy sugar was increased during September-October 1986 to meet higher demand. Foodgrains at cheaper prices are being supplied to people in tribal areas and under special schemes, namely, National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. State Governments have been urged from time to time to take prompt action against those indulging in malpractices and to strictly enforce the various provisions of Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations. However, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Central Government to fix the prices of all commodities exported under the Essential Commodities Act for the domestic market.

Setting up of a Dam Safety Authority

1168. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any geological fault was identified before the Narmada Project was cleared and if so, what corrective steps have been taken to ensure safety of the dam;

(b) whether there had been any danger signals from Tehri Dam in Uttar Pradesh and Panchana Dam in Rajasthan as reported in the 'Sunday Mail' of 28th September—4th October, 1986; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an independent Dam Safety Authority for handling pre and post dam construction and other related problems?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes. Sir. During the investigations of the Sardar Sarovar Project (Gujarat) a geological fault was identified running across the proposed dam site. Suitable measures including additional excavation, reinforced concrete backfill and grouting have been adopted.

(b) There are no indications of any danger from Tehri Dam site (Uttar Pradesh). Seepage has been noticed downstream of Panchana Dam (Rajasthan) for which remedial measures have been suggested by Central Water Commission and have been initiated by the Project Authorities.

(c) No, Sir.

Rise in atrocities no SC/ST in Orissa

1169. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of atrocities committed

on the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled tribes in the State of Orissa has considerably gone up;

(b) if so, the extent to which the cases of atrocities on SC/ST have gone up in per cent in Orissa during the last three years;

(c) whether any assessment of the rise in the case of atrocities on SC/ST in other States has also been made by Government, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that percentage of crimes against Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes has gone up significantly in the State of Orissa. The following table indicates the position:

Year	Crimes against	
	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1983	147	53
1984	150(+2.04%)	55(+3.8%)
1985	159(+6.00%)	46(−16.3%)

(c) and (d) Periodic reviews of atrocities against Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are carried out. In the States which show rise in the crimes, the matter is taken up at the highest level for taking suitable remedial measures.

High Level Committee on working of ICAR

1170. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a high level committee to examine the working of Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to redress the grievances of the scientists of ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration and details will be furnished as soon as it is finalised

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has adopted the redressal mechanism evolved by the Government of India. According to this, Joint Council Machinery and Grievance cells Scheme is operating in the Council. While Joint Councils consider service matters of general application, individual grievances are examined by the Grievances Cell/Committees. The representation received from the scientists are examined by the Council with reference to the relevant rules and instructions without any bias.

Rise in Prices of Onion, Potato and Garlic

1171. Shri F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of onion, potato and garlic are rising constantly;